

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School Committee held a meeting on this date at

7 p.m. in the Junior-Senior High School Library. Members present were Bill Clay, chairman; Paul McFadden, clerk; Susan DeSack; Teri Cicero; John Toro; and Gregory Coutcher. Connie Lyons, vice chairwoman, arrived at 7:15 p.m. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr., Director of Curriculum Philip D. Thornton, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo; and Student Representative Jaclyn Manchester were also present.

ORDER – Chair Clay called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Coutcher read the District Mission statement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair Clay asked Mr. and Mrs. Smith if they had received a letter stating that they had the right to hold the discussion relating to their son in Open Session. Mr. and Mrs. Smith did receive the letter but chose to hold the discussion in Executive Session. Chair Clay moved to go into Executive at 7:05 p.m. in accordance with Student Confidentiality RIGL 42-46-45(a)8 for the

discussion of Student Performance and Collective Bargaining RIGL 42-46-5(a)2. Seconded by Member DeSack. Voted 6-0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.

Vice Chair Lyons arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 7:55 .m.

A vote was taken to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation to deny eligibility of student for fall sports. The vote was 7-0.

OPEN FORUM – Mary-Ellen Thurber requested that if the Committee knows in advance that an Executive Session is going to be held at the beginning of the meeting that the agenda reflects it because there were other meetings being held in town that people would liked to have attended.

CONSENT AGENDA - Vice Chair Lyons moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Member DeSack. Voted 6-0.

The following four (4) items were approved:

1. MINUTES – Regular and Executive Minutes of August 17, 2004, Regular and Executive Minutes of August 24, 2004, Regular Minutes of a Special Meeting of August 30, 2004.

2. PERSONNEL ITEMS –

a. Appointments – Superintendent Seitsinger announced that School Nurse-Teacher 0.3 FTE position will be reposted.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 2

b. Leaves of Absence (as recommended by the Superintendent)

Shelly Krom's request for a parental leave of absence beginning at the end of her maternity disability and continuing for the second semester returning September 2005.

c. Resignations - Letter of resignation from Judy Allenson as the Superintendent Secretary effective December 31, 2004. The Superintendent recommended acceptance with deepest regret.

3. Bills – Regular bills in the amount of \$147,644.83 and Accruals in the amount of \$2,866.03.

4. Home Schools Approvals – Christiana Bardsley, grade 8; Taylor Bardsley, grade 6; John Z. Buckley, IV, grade 7; Christiana S. Buckley, grade 4; Nicholas Buckley, grade 3; Taylor Buckley, grade 3; Alexandra Buckley, grade 3; Zachary Buckley, grade 1; Chelsea Fletcher, grade 5; Jamee Huffman; Kyle Greene, grade 6, Rachel Greene, grade 4, Stephanie Greene, grade 2, Jennifer Ives, grade 3; Michael Ives, high school; Hannah Montie; Rachel Negri, grade 1; Tyler Parenteau, grade 3; Kaitlyn Pindak; Andrew Pindak; Daniel

Pindak; Andrea Sepe, grade 5; Dominique Sepe, grade 2; Benjamin Sylvia, grade 2; Ila West; Lane West and Percy West.

End of Consent Agenda

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – EWG Hockey Club Land Request - Joe Walsh gave an overview of the EWG Hockey Club's goals and asked the school district for 3 to 7 acres of land on which to build an ice skating facility. The junior/senior high school faculty and students would have access to the facility from 2 to 3 p.m. every day school is in session at no charge.

Member McFadden moved to have the Superintendent consult legal counsel asking if it is possible for the EWG Hockey Club to use the district's land to build an ice skating facility. Seconded by Member Toro. Voted 7-0. This will be placed on the next agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE – (1) RI Healthy Schools Coalition information, (2) Letter from Ted Sanford regarding traffic at Metcalf School, (3) Memo regarding Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus Concerns, (4) Articles regarding Board Culture and Trust, (5) Retirement Board Action 9/9/04, (6) e-mail from SORICO regarding KeyWork, (7) Articles regarding new Metcalf sign and new principal Louise Boyce, (8) KeyWork meeting flyer, (9) Letters from NEASC regarding High School evaluation.

Dr. Seitsinger asked to discuss correspondence relating to the

Retirement Board Action September 9, 2004. Superintendent Seitsinger noted that an increase in employer's state and local contribution to the Retirement Board is being debated by the legislators for the fiscal 2005-06. If passed, this will mean a substantial increase in the District's

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 3

contribution. Chair Clay noted that the District will not know the local share increase until after the District's budget has been adopted next year.

ROUTINE ITEMS – 03-04 Budget Projection – Mr. Ross reported an un-audited fund balance of \$83,493 which will be moved into the general fund bringing the cash reserve balance to approximately \$220,000. Dr. Seitsinger noted that the \$220,000 cash reserve balance is less than 1% of the total budget. The School Committee policy recommends having a cash reserve balance of 2% of the total budget.

NEW BUSINESS – Literacy Curriculum Templates – Mr. Thornton announced that the first draft of the K-12 Literacy Curriculum Templates have been distributed to every family, teacher and administrator. The booklets were funded by grant money.

Superintendent Seitsinger noted that through the efforts of the teachers and Mr. Thornton these templates have made a powerful statement for the first step as a reference for understanding the basic knowledge and performance expectations for each grade level in reading and writing.

RI Accountability System – Mr. Thornton gave an overview of how grades 4, 8 and 11 did on the 2004 State assessments. October 13 the Superintendent only will get the official e-mail ranking of our schools. The District will have until November 16 to make any corrections and to ensure the accuracy of our rankings.

Member McFadden left the meeting at this time.

Special Education Director – Work Year Status Member Toro moved to increase the Special Education Director's position from 210 days to 220 days subject to the availability of grant funds to appropriate the per diem. Seconded by Member DeSack. Voted 6-0.

All-day Referendum in lieu of DFM – Of 8,000 registered voters, fewer than 300 voters come to vote at the District Financial meeting. Member Cicero noted that an all-day referendum would afford more people to vote. If the budget did not pass, a District Financial Meeting could be planned. Chair Clay noted that any change would need to be in a petition form from voters. It was agreed that Member Cicero would be in charge of looking into this further.

Replacement for Superintendent's Secretary – Member Toro moved to hire someone to work with Judy and to give the Superintendent authority to post and advertise the position vacated by Judy. Seconded by Member DeSack. Voted 6-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Building Committee Request – Chair Clay moved to pay the final payment to Alhambra Building Company, but the balance not to exceed \$9,857.42. Seconded by Member Toro. Voted 6-0.

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH SEPTEMBER 14, 2004
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 4**

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES – School Finance Reform, Wed., September 15, 7 p.m., HS Library; Keyworks, Monday, September 20, 6-9 p.m., Narragansett; RI Healthy Schools Coalition, Friday, September 24, 7:15-10 a.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick; RIASC Collective Bargaining Seminar, Saturday, October 25, 8-11:45 a.m.; School Committee Meeting, Tuesday, September 28, 7 p.m.

Member Toro moved to adjourn at 9:14 p.m. Seconded by Member Lyons. Voted 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

JUDITH V. ALLENSON
CLERK